The Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), established in 2014, is one of 20 Country-based Pooled Funds managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The AHF enables swift and principled action in response to humanitarian priorities throughout the country.

Donor contributions to the AHF are unearmarked. They are allocated through an inclusive and transparent process to respond flexibly to top priority needs, enabling eligible partners to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance.

The AHF is at the heart of humanitarian coordination. Combining the strategic leadership of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, guidance from the Advisory Board, management from OCHA, and technical advice from partners, allocations save lives and alleviate suffering while strengthening the humanitarian system and the quality of the response.

AHF in action

In response to the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the Fund immediately disbursed funding to help the most vulnerable displaced families needing everything from basic shelter to food, medical care and protection.

In response to recent events, the AHF has allocated $22.7 million in August 2021 to support best placed partners delivering life-saving mobile health programmes, trauma and psychological first aid, safe drinking water, shelter, cash-for-food, gender-based violence prevention and response, reproductive and maternal health care.

The AHF has extensive experience in financing projects to address urgent humanitarian needs in remote and hard-to-reach locations across all provinces of the country, including through clearance of unexploded ordnance.

What the AHF does

Offers value for money and maximum impact
The AHF ensures strategic, effective and efficient use of limited resources in complex and often dangerous circumstances, ensuring that the funding provided to implementing partners goes as far as it can to save lives and provide essential services for people caught up in crises.

Saves lives through quick and flexible humanitarian action
The AHF supports an agile response in a fluid and rapidly changing environment, enabling humanitarian partners to act quickly by making resources available immediately for the most urgent life-saving activities.
Aid workers on the ground identify the most urgent types of humanitarian assistance that people need, such as shelter, food, clean water and medicine.

Donors contribute to specific CBPFs.

CONTRIBUTIONS

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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CONTRIBUTIONS

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Humanitarian partners work together to prioritize life-saving relief activities. They request CBPF funding through the Humanitarian Coordinator.

REQUESTING CBPFs FUNDING

Contributions are pooled into single funds.

MANAGING FUNDS

Based on expert advice from aid workers on the ground, the Humanitarian Coordinator allocates CBPF funding.

ALLOCATING FUNDS

Relief organizations use the money for life-saving aid operations. They always track spending and impact, and report back to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

SAVING LIVES

Supports a needs-based response
Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, a wide range of stakeholders assess and prioritize the most urgent needs through an inclusive and transparent process, fostering collaboration and collective ownership of the emergency response.

Supports coordination
The AHF builds on the existing coordination mechanisms and joint knowledge on the ground to address most critical needs. It also empowers humanitarian leadership and enhances partnerships by including diverse stakeholders in decision-making during the allocation process by engaging the cluster system in establishing allocation priorities. All projects are approved by the Humanitarian Coordinator taking into consideration the recommendations from the Advisory board and technical guidance from clusters.

Supports efficiency and accountability
The AHF minimizes management and administrative costs, is transparent, accountable and employs a robust risk-management system. The Fund thoroughly assesses recipient organizations and monitors all projects with regular reporting on achievement and impact.

Supports national and international NGOs
The AHF supports a wide range of humanitarian partners and regularly conducts workshops and training. Most partners are international and national NGOs, receiving the large majority of grants.

Promotes complementarity
OCHA manages the AHF and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocations and ensures complementarity of both Pooled Funds with other humanitarian funding. Timely and predictable donor contributions are vital for AHF partners to provide urgent assistance to vulnerable and under-served people throughout the country.

Since 2014, the AHF received generous support from UN Member States, as well as individuals through donations to the UN Foundation:

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea (Rep. of), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

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For real-time updates of contributions and allocations, visit CBPF Business Intelligence:
https://gms.unocha.org/bi

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office:
http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/HAF10